



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

ANDREW S. LEVIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan
Okemos Conference Center
Okemos, Michigan

January 28, 2011
Meeting Minutes No. 279

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting Chairperson Olga Hernandez-Patino called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Olga Hernández-Patino, Art Reyes, Mike Ramírez, Leonard Savala, Maria Elena Rodríguez, Rick García, Danny Inquilla, Alicia Villarreal, Debra Ehrmann, Michael Espinoza

Excused Absence: Lawrence García, Art Luna, Fred Feliciano, Gil Guzman

Staff Present: Marylou Mason, Victoria García

II. Introduction of Commissioners

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Welcoming Remarks

Acting Chairperson Olga Hernandez-Patino welcomed the Commissioners to the Lansing area.

IV. Approval of Absences:

MOTION: Commissioner Espinoza motioned to approve the absences of Commissioner Luna, Garcia, Guzman and Feliciano. Commissioner Rick Garcia supported the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Garcia motioned to approve the agenda of January 28, 2011. Commissioner Ramirez supported the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Reyes motioned to approve the minutes of September 28, 2010. Commissioner Rodriguez supported the motion. Motion carried.

VII. Public Forum

Ilse Lujan-Hayes, ABC Channel 12 News Producer/Reporter, Grand Blanc: Ms. Lujan-Hayes stated she was invited by Commissioner Reyes and that she is a producer/report for ABC Channel 12 News. Ms. Lujan-Hayes stated the reason she attended the meeting is because a week ago she had attended a workshop, Latino Non-Profit Leadership Academy, in Grass Lake, Michigan and was sponsored by the Center for Leadership Innovation. As a result of that conference, she made a personal commitment to be more involved and more informed within the Hispanic community. She stated she was surprised to learn that most people attending the conference did not know who the HLCOM commissioners were. She also stated she thought it would be important for each Commissioner to know who the leaders are in their respective communities and reach out to them and invite them to the meetings.

Commissioner Erhmann stated she has been through this great workshop and recommended all Commissioners to attend. She had her training handbook with her and Commissioner Savala offered to scan and provide a copy to the office for distribution.

VIII. Executive Reports

Acting Chairperson's Report: Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino reported that due to absences that election of officers was held yesterday at the annual planning session. The newly re-elected Officers are: Lawrence García, Chairman; Fred Feliciano, Vice-Chair; Olga Hernandez-Patino, Secretary; and Rick Garcia, Trustee. Acting Chairperson congratulated all the new officers.

Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino read the goals that were developed at the Retreat. The four goals are:

1. Educate the government about how pending legislation will affect the Hispanic Community's economic opportunity, quality of life and ability to serve the State.
2. Hold a second Hispanic Advocacy Day with voter registration to sign up 1,000 new voters.
3. Meet with Governor Snyder and inform/advise him about HLCOM and Hispanic Community, showing how Hispanics can contribute to realizing his vision for Michigan.
4. Arrange a symposium on the education/health concerns faced by the Hispanic Community, along with a student summit.

Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino stated that at the Retreat, committees were formed. She urged committees to discuss what

days/times they would like to meet. The chair of each committee has one week to email Chairman Garcia to advise how they will be moving forward.

B. Executive Director's Report:

Director Mason entertained any questions in reference to her written report.

Ms. Mason reviewed her report with emphasis on the Comcast grant that we received. The three subgrantees: Latinos United for Progress (LAUP)-Holland (student leadership summit/education awareness), Multicultural Programs and Services-Adrian (student leadership program, and The Aud-Richmond (student theater group). Memorandums of Agreement have been prepared and signed by all parties and the department is in the process of dispersing the funds. The office will monitor their progress. Ms. Mason stated the office will be sending out information on to Commissioners on the Holland leadership summit/conference and hopes Commissioners will support this event. She would like the Commission to present them with a resolution. They have over 300 student registered to date. Comcast is very interested in publicity for these grants, as well as providing publicity for the Commission. Ms. Mason thanked Commissioner Garcia for putting the grant together. Commissioner Garcia also thanked Ms. Maria Holmes for all her assistance and direction for completing the grant process. Ms. Mason also thanked DELEG's Communication's office for all their assistance in getting press releases out to advise the community of these grant awards.

Ms. Mason announced that an updated Commissioner roster was in the packet. Please let the office know of any necessary changes.

Also enclosed in the packet was a proposed draft schedule for 2011 meeting dates & locations. Ms. Mason reviewed the dates and locations and stated she would like to finalize this schedule as soon as possible so it can be posted on our website. Commissioner Reyes offered to host the March meeting in Flint. Commissioner Rodriguez asked if we could take things to help the families and children at the migrant camp in Traverse City. Ms. Mason stated that we could prepare children's bags by age with toys, school supplies, tooth brushes/paste, books, and clothing. For the adult families we could provide boxes of food. Ms. Mason explained for when Cristo Rey Community Center visits migrant's camps they receive donations from various stores such as water bottles from Meijer. The county health departments provide donations as well. Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino asked Ms. Mason if she could find out what is needed from the families in the Traverse City area, then Commissioners could work on getting donations/money to help with the baskets. Before the

meeting, the Commissioners could work together to prepare the baskets. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested providing Mexican specialty items and thought she might be able to get donations from Mexicantown.

Commissioner Reyes asked Ms. Mason about what was discussed at the NCLR Affiliates Meeting in regard to what other states were doing regarding the Arizona immigration law. Ms. Mason stated they announced there have been a lot of copy cat type bills introduced but so far none of them have gone anywhere. NCLR has teamed up with individual states to flood legislators with letters and phone calls of opposition. Commissioner Reyes stated her heard there may be another Arizona type bill introduced here in Michigan possible within the next week. He inquired who would be a good person within NCLR to reach out to for assistance. Ms. Mason stated the best person would be Mr. Jose Velasquez, Director of Affiliates Services. Ms. Mason reminded Commissioner that NCLR will be hold their annual Advocacy Day on the Hill in March and it would be very beneficial for them to attend. Ms. Mason stated she would have Vicky email Commissioners NCLR contact names and information.

Ms. Mason stated that Senator Garcia had contacted the HLCOM office before the end of his term and said he has an award he would like to present to Lansing Community College. The award is to thank them for all their years of involvement and support to the Hispanic community and to the Commission. He would like Commissioners to be present during the presentation. Ms. Mason stated she is working with the president's office staff to obtain dates that the president is available.

Ms. Mason stated the office has updated the By-Laws to reflect the new Public Act changes. The updated version is in the packet for review. Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino requested three volunteers to review the revised By-laws. Commissioners Garcia, Ramon and Ehrmann volunteered to review the By-law changes. This committee will review and send any edits to the office by Friday, February 4, 2011. Once changes completed, the office will send out for final review to the Commission to be approved at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ramon inquired how someone would become involved with the orphanage in Mexico that is noted in the report. Ms. Mason stated she can email Commissioner Ramon some information on sponsoring a child. The cost for sponsoring a child is \$48 a month.

IX. Committee Reports:

Economic Development:

No report.

Education/Health: Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino announced that she received information from Alicia Calderon from the Dept. of Education announcing "College Goal Sunday". This event will assist students and their families with completing college financial aid paperwork. This event will be held in Detroit on February 12, 2011 at the Urban League of Detroit and in Saginaw at Delta College on February 13, 2011. There will be prizes for attendees.

Legislative & Civic Engagement:

Commissioner Inquilla reiterated a portion of Gov. Snyder's State of the State speech: ".....Establish new initiative to encourage immigrants with advanced college degrees to come to Michigan to work and live. I've asked the Dept. of Civil Rights to work with the MEDC in this effort. We need to be a place that openly encourages innovators and entrepreneurs to come to our state. The evidence is clear that advanced college degrees earners make a tremendous difference in making positive economic activity environment which benefits us all. To give you additional background for example about half of the startups in Silicon Valley have a foreign national as its founder. Immigration natives of this great state and the country, it is time we embrace this concept as a way to speed our reinvention." He did comment that Steve Tobocman's group is making it clear with Global Detroit that it's not only immigrants with advanced college degrees who are making a tremendous difference. Those with advanced college degree earners are not the only innovators and entrepreneurs that come to our state. Commissioner Inquilla stated the Commission should help publicize that ALL immigrants are contributing to Michigan to make it a more welcoming place.

There is no new updated bill on legislation. There have only been three bills to date. Two of those bills were repeats from last year that didn't go any where. One bill would require that staffing agencies use the e-verify program before they can refer any workers to jobs and the other bill would require that the state only use public contractors who have been using e-verify for their workforce. The third bill requires that employers to put in writing that they have not been using unauthorized workers. All three bills are designed to prevent employers from using unauthorized workers.

Commissioner Inquilla heard there is also a possible new bill that would require bridge card recipients to have a photo ID. However, he believes that the bill actually will require that a photo of the recipient be added to the bridge card.

It is expected that an Arizona type immigration bill be introduced in Michigan in the near future.

Commissioner Inquilla stated that U.S. Secretary Hilda Solis recently appointed Erasama Garza as Senior Council in the Office of the Secretary of Labor. Ms. Garza was recently on the farmer worker justice board of directors. She is a former farm worker and her and her family migrated between Texas and Michigan. Ms. Garza eventually graduated from the University of Michigan Law School to become an attorney. She was a labor union attorney and official. In the Clinton administration, she led the Woman's Bureau within the Dept. of Labor as well as a unit on international labor affairs. She later became president of Legal Momentum which is now Legal Defense Fund. Ms. Garza will be coming to Michigan on May 18, 2011 to be the keynote speaker to Southwest Michigan Resource Council Pre-season Conference in Van Buren County in Lawrence. The conference organizer is Pedro Martinez. Commissioner Reyes stated that she is a phenomenal speaker. Ms. Mason stated that her husband, Hector, used to be the executive director of the Commission before she was appointed executive director. Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino recommended that Ms. Mason contact the conference organizer and inquire if the Commissioner can present a resolution to her. Executive Director Mason suggested having the May meeting during this conference. Commissioners agreed that would be a good idea.

X. Old Business:

1. Latino Summit: Commissioner Rick Garcia stated that he wanted to provide a brief update following the Latino Summit that was held last fall. He stated that Commissioner Ehrmann, Hernandez-Patino and himself all attended the summit at Michigan State University. This was the second phase of the summit which brought together many of the Hispanic leaders throughout the state. A report was compiled and distributed last September 2010. From that meeting, the committee wanted to identify or develop a statewide non-profit organization. Dr. Martinez had inquired of Commissioner Garcia of what it would take to put this framework together. Commissioners Ehrmann and Hernandez-Patino were also in attendance at the Summit. He stressed the inclusion of the Commission (HLCOM) to make sure we are part of the developments. He stated a small group of individuals met in December 2010 and came up with the by-laws. They are looking to do an article of incorporation and filing sometime in February 2011. Dr. Martinez mailed out a draft of the by-laws and the article of incorporation to the members. The name of the group will be "Mi Alma" (Michigan Alliance of Latinos Moving for Advancement). The intention is not to duplicate what the Commission is doing but more or less to further opportunities through grants. Commissioner Garcia stated he would send a copy of the draft bylaws to the office for distribution to Commissioners.

Commissioner Ramon inquired if it was this group's intention to be more of a public policy type of initiative for Hispanics around the state. Commissioner Garcia agreed that would be one arm of the project.

Commissioner Ramon stated that is something that is definitely needed not only statewide but in local communities so we can effectuate some change. Commissioner Garcia stated that a lot of the discussion from the Retreat is the same as this group's objectives and needs are. Commissioner Garcia will email the report to the office for distribution to the Commissioners.

XI. New Business:

- 1) Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino announced that on Friday, February 4th, it is the American Heart Association's "Wear Red" campaign day aimed to make aware the number one killer of women is Cardiovascular Disease – not breast cancer. The American Heart Association says that Hispanic/Latino women get cardiovascular disease 10 years before a white woman. She encouraged all people to wear red on Friday, February 4th.
- 2) Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino announced that on February 15th the Wharton Center will be featuring "Ballet Hispanico." She stated it is important for the Hispanic community to support this event.
- 3) Commissioner Rodriguez announced a play that will be at the Fisher Theater, February 1-13, 2011, entitled "In the Heights" which has won 5-6 Tony Awards. This play has already been shown in Grand Rapids. She encouraged Commissioners to support this play. Commissioner Rodriguez will send the office information to be emailed to Commissioners. She also stated she would like the Commission to honor this group of young people. Ms. Mason suggested a resolution. This idea was supported by Commissioners. Commissioner Rodriguez will send the office information for the resolution.
- 4) Commissioner Garcia announced one of the sub-grantees for the Comcast grant is a student theater production company called The Aud. They have an upcoming production of Disney's Aladdin in dual languages. The show will be held April 8-10, 2011 in Richmond. He encouraged Commissioners to support their event.
- 5) Commissioner Reyes stated Flint will be hosting their annual Cesar Chavez Day Celebration on March 26, 2011. Ms. Ilse Lujan-Hayes will be the emcee for the event. He is fundraising for the event by way of advertisement sales (\$10-\$200) and would like the Commission to present a resolution, if possible. He will send out additional information to Commissioners.
- 6) Commissioner Ramirez announced that Kalamazoo Public Schools is hosting their annual Cesar Chavez Day on March 31, 2011. He will send the office additional information to pass along.

He also stated that Western Michigan University is having an annual fundraiser banquet on March 26, 2011, to raise money for scholarships.

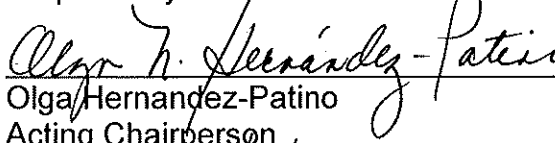
The keynote speaker is Dr. Juan Andrade, U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute.

- 7) Ms. Mason announced that Chairman Garcia will be the keynote speaker at Saginaw Valley State University for their annual Cesar Chavez event. The date to be announced.
- 8) Commissioner Garcia announced that our grant award Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) is having their annual youth leadership conference on February 15, 2011 in Holland.
- 9) Commissioner Savala announced there is a Latino Youth Conference in Grand Rapids on March 8, 2011. There will have over 600 eighth graders in attendance. Commissioner Guzman will be in attendance.
- 10) Executive Director Mason reminded Commissioners to please send to the office advance notice and adequate background information on events so the staff can prepare resolutions. Commissioner Erhmann requested the staff send Commissioners a standard format (or boilerplate format) on how resolutions should be written. Acting Chairperson Hernandez-Patino suggested that since we will be partnering or co-sponsoring with other agencies to fulfill our goals for 2011, that we provide our logo for other agencies websites or publications as a co-sponsor for events. Ms. Mason also suggested Commissioners or staff be members on other group's planning committees to partner or co-sponsor in these events.
- 11) Commissioner Erhmann stated there is a Right to Know Your Rights workshop on February 4, 2011 in Flint and February 5, 2011 in Detroit
- 12) Meeting Schedule: The March meeting will be in Flint, May meeting in Lawrence and the rest of the proposed schedule as is.

MOTION: Commissioner Reyes motioned to accept the changes to the 2011 Meeting Schedule. The motion was supported by Commissioner Ramon. Motion passed.

Adjournment at 11:40a.m.

Prepared by Commission staff:


Olga Hernandez-Patino
Acting Chairperson

3/4/11
Date